



ELL Newsletter

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)
Fall Issue
September 2008



NEW Title III LEP/Immigrant Consultant

Sonia James Upton has been hired as the new Title III-LEP/ Immigrant consultant at KDE. She replaces Maureen Keithley, who has moved on to work as a consultant with WIDA. We wish Maureen well in her new position. Sonia has 18 years of teaching experience with the Bowling Green Independent school district. For the last 12 years she has been an ELL Teacher and the lead ELL teacher for her district. Sonia has presented at many national and state conferences, is a published author and has been very active in KDE projects relating to standards development and assessment.

Important Dates 2008-09

October 28 & 29, 2008	Data Retreat
November 19-20, 2008	WIDA Technical Assistance Retreat
December 12, 2008	Ship ACCESS materials to Districts
December 16, 2008	Districts receive ACCESS Materials
Jan. 5 – Feb. 13, 2009	ACCESS Testing Window
Feb.13-20, 2009	Districts Pack completed test materials
February 20, 2009	Districts ship ACCESS materials to MT
April 21 – 24, 2009	ACCESS reports shipped to Districts
April 23-May 21, 2009	ACCESS Corrections Window

Helpful Resources

- Click-n'-Type from www.Lakefolks.org is an onscreen keyboard that is available in many languages. With it, you can type into whatever application you are using.
- For information on simplified textbooks, go to: http://simple.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page.
- For activities for ELLs, go to <http://www.esl-lab.com>.
- TarHeel Reader – good source for beginning readers <http://gb-cs.unc.edu/TarHeelReader>
- Source for younger ELLs to develop reading skills www.starfall.com
- Good website for kids to express themselves in making a picture, movies, drawings, cards, stories check out www.kerpoof.com Site also includes teacher content lesson plans.
- Edvantia has compiled a collection of resources in many critical areas of research. You can access this information at <http://www.arcc.edvantia.org/resources.php>

Upcoming Professional Development

KYTESOL Annual Conference

September 12-13, 2008 - Georgetown Information:
www.kytesol.org

- **Emergent ELL – Immigrant Training**
open to ELL Coordinators or designees needing a refresher course in district procedures for ELLs. Sept. 23, 2008 – Georgetown Information: sonia.upton@education.ky.gov
- **Mini-ELLA**
open to K-5th-grade mainstream teachers Sept. 24, 2008 – Georgetown or Sept. 25, 2008 – Richmond Information: sonia.upton@education.ky.gov
- **SETESOL**
Sept. 24-27, 2008 - Birmingham, Alabama Information: setesol2008@yahoo.com
- **Data Retreat**
October 29, 2008 – KDE Information: chris.williams@education.ky.gov
- **WIDA Technical Assistance Retreat**
November 19-20, 2008 – KDE Information: chris.williams@education.ky.gov

ELL Academy (ELLA) 2008-09

In fall 2008, KDE will partner with the Migrant Education Program to offer three English Language Learner Academies (ELLAs) in Madisonville, Georgetown and Richmond. The ELL Academies target middle and high school teachers and administrators working with English language learners. We are excited to have 113 participants representing eight school districts and 14 teams consisting of content area teachers, ELL teachers, migrant coordinators, and district administrators.

The mission of Kentucky's ELLA is to:

- provide research-based LEP PD to teams of mainstream teachers and administrators
- equip teams with necessary tools to successfully teach and continually challenge their ELLs
- assist teams in enhancing communication and collaboration with their ESL staff
- support teams as they provide turn-key training to their school and district peers to improve ELL achievement
- collaborate with Migrant Education to provide high-quality support for Kentucky's migrant ELLs

For more information about the ELL Academy contact: Sonia Upton at sonia.upton@education.ky.gov

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. What English language proficiency (ELP) assessment(s) must be entered in STI/Infinite Campus?

All ELLs should have at least two posted assessments in STI or Infinite Campus for the 2008-09 school year – W-APT and ACCESS (unless they arrived after the statewide ACCESS window closed on February 15, 2008). The **W-APT** identification assessment, administered at the ELL's entry into a Kentucky school district, should be posted. Four domain levels (listening, speaking, reading and writing) should be posted for 1st -12th grade students. For Kindergarten students, districts **ONLY** enter the **test date**. Guidance for Kindergarten WAPT testing is available at: <http://education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/Testing+and+Reporting+/District+Support/World-class+Instructional+Design+and+Assessment/W-APT+Screener.htm>

- For students who arrived prior to the 2006-07 school year, a LAS or IPT assessment should be posted.
- For ACCESS, the four domain levels and scores should be posted before the close of the 2008-09 school year.

Q. Should a district always administer W-APT when a home language survey indicates a background language other than English?

Before administering W-APT to a newly enrolled student utilizing the student's unique SSID number, check STI/Infinite Campus for the posting of former English language proficiency scores (W-APT and ACCESS). If no scores are posted for an ELL transferring from another Kentucky district, contact the former district's Title III–ELL coordinator. (Title III District Coordinators are posted on KDE's Web site under "English Language Learning.")

Q. Should kindergarten ELLs be checked "Limited or No Formal Schooling" in STI and Infinite Campus?

No, kindergarten ELLs should NOT be checked "Limited or No Formal Schooling." Since preschool is not considered formal education, all kindergarteners enter school with the same formal educational experience.

Q. Do all ELLs need a Program Services Plan (PSP)?

A PSP should be designed for any student who did not achieve an overall composite level of 5.0 Tier B or C on ACCESS or W-APT during the 2007-08 school year. If parents waive direct ESL services, the ELL must still have a PSP, providing guidance for accommodations for instruction and assessment (KAR 5:070). PSPs must be revised annually (at a minimum) based on annual ACCESS reports and other academic data.

Q. Where should districts place ELLs in terms of grade level?

ELLs should be placed age-appropriately, regardless of the amount of prior formal schooling or level of English language proficiency. Students may remain until the age of 21 in order to complete high school.

New Kindergarten ACCESS News!!!

For those teachers who work with Kindergarten English language learners, you will be happy to note that new changes are coming for the Kindergarten assessments. Now when students take the test, their Proficiency Levels can range from PL1 to PL5. (This is different from the past with a range from PL1 – PL3).

Other differences include the following:

- Listening and Speaking are integrated
- Test includes two themes-one Narrative Story and one Expository Story. They each focus on different skills.
- The testing kit contains manipulatives to actively engage the student in the testing process.
- The kit includes five components: Test Administrator Script, Student Story Board, Student Response Booklet, Cards & Card Container, and Student Activity Board.

Since the test is NEW this year, everyone who administers the ACCESS kindergarten test must be retrained prior to the testing window. Look for more information coming soon related to this test!

News from the U. S. Department of Education

A new **Teacher-to-Teacher digital workshop** (www.t2tweb.us/doingwhatworks) is now available. Its subject is Doing What Works: Teaching Reading to English Language Learners. The workshop is specifically geared to techniques and practices for students in elementary grades.

[Doing What Works](http://www.dww.ed.gov) is an exciting new site sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. It is dedicated to helping educators identify and make use of effective teaching practices. The [Doing What Works website](http://www.dww.ed.gov) (www.dww.ed.gov) contains Practice Guides from which the workshop material is drawn. These Practice Guides reflect teaching practices that the Institute for Educational Services have found to be effective for teaching English Language Learners. The Teacher-to-Teacher digital workshop on teaching reading to English Language Learners is designed as a visual complement to the much more extensive materials presented in the subject's Practice Guide. For more information, visit this URL:

<http://www.T2TWeb.us/Updates/JoinLeave.asp>.

For More Information on Kentucky's ELLs

Shelda Hale, (502) 564-2106, ext. 4103
shelda.hale@education.ky.gov

Sonia Upton (502) 564-2106, ext. 4102
sonia.upton@education.ky.gov